



PREVENTION Highlights



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Our Mission

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is dedicated to protecting lives and property from the hazards of fire or explosion and will promote prevention, educational and investigative activities to mitigate incidents, promote life safety and deter crimes.

The Fire Prevention Division

The goal of the Fire Prevention Division is to reduce the potential impact of fire and explosion hazards where people live, work and congregate (other than one- or two-family dwellings) through code enforcement, inspections, plans review, licensing, and public education.

Prevention Highlights

Prevention Highlights is published quarterly to provide facility managers and others with information necessary to operate fire-safe facilities.

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Edu-Note

by Joel

It has been an absolute pleasure being with the Office of the State Fire Marshal these past few months. Something that has been especially enjoyable is being able to go out and provide fire safety education to various facilities and their staff.

When I first arrived at the OSFM, there was an emphasis on college campus fire safety. Our office has reached out to Kansas college campuses to give the Resident Advisors and Student Life Staff fire safety instruction to share with students when college is in full swing. Our office was able to provide training at Pittsburg State University, Fort Hays State University and Washburn University. We thank them for their hospitality and look forward to reaching out to them and more campuses next year.

Another big push for our office has been getting the word out about the CMS changes to the 2012 Edition of the Life Safety

Code 101. In the middle of July, there were training sessions in Topeka and Wichita during which we were able to cover in greater detail the changes in the 2012 Edition of LSC

101. With great turnout for those two training sessions, we believe that the healthcare facilities that participated will now be more aware and prepared for the fire code changes affecting their facilities.

In addition to the group presentations that I have had the privilege of being a part of, there have also been individual requests for our office to come and help out in different ways. Very recently, we have gone to Larned to teach an Essential Level – Fire Suppression and Detection Class and to a healthcare facility in Beloit to share the code changes that are coming soon.



Traveling across Kansas to give different presentations is something that I, as a Fire Prevention Education Consultant, enjoy greatly. It is always a pleasure to meet new people and being able to give information and material that could later save lives is a rewarding feeling. If you are interested in scheduling a presentation by our office, please call or send me an email and I will be happy to work with you and help out in any way. My direct phone number is 785-296-0659 and my email address is joel.c.beckner@ks.gov.

-Joel Beckner, Education Consultant





Home day care providers must remember the importance of fire safety when taking care of children. Since these types of residences are being used as a business, it is our mission to remind them of these safety requirements.

Home daycare providers are not able to use basements or upper levels of the home for daycare use until the basement and/or upper level has been inspected and approved by the fire authority (local fire department or OSFM).

Every home daycare needs to have a working smoke alarm on each level of the home, in each sleeping room and in every exit pathway. The smoke alarm needs to be hardwired to the electrical system with battery backup or have a ten-year lithium 9V battery installed in

them. When you, as a home daycare provider, sign the Fire/Life Safety Agreement upon inspection, you are agreeing to the fact that you will have these smoke alarms in place.

Below are a few other Home Daycare Fire and Life Safety requirements that are required for home daycare providers.

- Every escape path including hallways and stairways is clear of obstacles and all doors are in proper working conditions.
- Children can open every closet door from the inside at all times.
- Child care is on the main level and has two remote exits.
- Written emergency procedures for fire evacuation are provided and practiced monthly.
- Monthly fire drills are documented. Drills shall be

conducted and evacuation time shall be within 4 minutes.

- All unused electrical outlet in the licensed areas have child-resistant protective covers.
- All natural gas, kerosene, wood, propane heaters, etc. are properly vented to the outside of the home.
- OSFM website www.ksfm.ks.gov has a complete list of the Home Daycare Fire and Life Safety requirements.

-Brenda Reber, Fire Prevention Inspector





Another school year is under way and students are filling the halls, talking about last week's football game, their teachers, and who they are taking to the next dance. Some of the most memorable times for students are the school dances...the fun, the music, the decorations! With all of excitement school dances can bring, it's easy to overlook potential fire hazards, especially when decorating. Following a few simple precautions can keep these events both safe AND fun for all.

- Make sure all exits are accessible and free from obstructions. Also make sure that all exit signs can be clearly seen and are not hidden by any decorations.
- The minimum clear width of six feet in exit corridors must be maintained.
- Artwork on the walls of corridors shall be limited to not more than 20% of the wall area unless the

materials meet an appropriate level of flame resistance.

- Never hang any decorations from sprinkler pipes.
- Portable fire extinguishers shall not be obstructed or obscured from view by any decorations.
- Maintain a minimum of 18" of clearance between sprinkler heads and any prop or decoration placed underneath it.
- Extension cords and flexible cords shall not be affixed to structures, extended through walls, ceilings, or floors, or under doors or floor coverings. Nor shall such cords be subject to environmental damage or physical impact.
- Do not overload circuits and follow manufacturer directions when using lights, extension cords and power strips.

-Joel Beckner, Education Consultant

Do the Drill

With the school year now in session there are some important regulations regarding fire drills for Educational Occupancies Grades K-12. Kansas Regulation 22-18-2 is very clear what needs to be done in terms of fire drills.



- Both public and private schools shall conduct at least one fire drill each month. Fire drills shall be conducted during school hours aside from regular dismissal time at noon or at close of day's session.
- Fire drills shall be **UNANNOUNCED** and shall be conducted by the use of the regular fire alarm system. Fire drills shall include all floors, wings and sections of the building. Every person shall vacate the building during the fire drill and teachers and administrators shall accompany their pupils from the building and account for each pupil within their authority.
- All doors and exits shall be kept unlocked and unobstructed when building is occupied. It shall be the duty of the school board or board of trustees of all schools both public and private to assure that such fire drills are conducted and true and accurate records of such drills are kept on forms provided by the state fire marshal and posted in a conspicuous location and filed with the state fire marshal at the end of each school year.



Fire Safety Poster Contest



Kansas students are invited to participate in the annual Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Fire Safety Poster Contest. The contest will take place during the month of October to coincide with Fire Prevention Week, which is October 9-15, 2016. Fire departments nationwide observe this week each year to mark the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

The purpose of the contest is to recognize those students that best demonstrate an understanding of fire safety tips. The contest is open to all school children in Kansas from grades K-6th. It is, however, more than just a drawing contest. Our aim is to educate our Kansas children about what to do in the event of a fire. We need the help of parents, educators and fire departments to be able to accomplish that goal. Encouraging involvement in the Fire Safety Poster Contest could potentially save lives.

Your community benefits

greatly when schools and their local fire departments partner together to deliver fire prevention education to your students. In 2014, a 7-year-old girl named Sage learned one day at school about evacuation drills and getting outside quickly. The very next day her home was destroyed by a grease fire and thankfully the girl alerted her family and they escaped safely. Because the school made fire safety education a priority that little girl knew exactly what to do and her family is safe.

Let's work together and have the most participants this year in the Fire Safety Poster Contest. Not because we need to brag about numbers but because we need our Kansas students to know how to prevent fires and how to react to a fire in a timely manner. The contest begins Oct. 2, 2016 and the theme this year is "Show What You Know About Fire Safety". You may access the 2016-2017 Fire Safety Poster Contest details at <https://firemarshal.ks.gov/>

[postercontest](#). We encourage you to contact your local fire department for assistance and guidance if you would like to participate in this contest. Many will make time to come give a presentation on Fire Safety before the students create their poster. The students can then use the information they learned to visually demonstrate their Fire Safety knowledge.

Thank you, in advance, for choosing to participate in the poster contest and working with your local fire departments to educate our Kansas students about fire safety. Teaching our students to be aware and prepared in the event of a fire could potentially save a life.

-Kelly Ingold, Education Consultant



SPOT the violations

A

B

C

D





Plan Review Turnaround Time

The Office of the State Fire Marshal has adopted a 30 calendar day policy regarding the completion of design documents submitted for review.

Plan reviews are conducted by National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Certified Fire Protection Specialists (CFPS). While the CFPS assigned to that particular plan review tries to review the design documents within two weeks that is not always reasonable. Thus we have adopted the 30 day plan review turn-around time policy.

Once reviewed, if the design document is denied we will forward the denial letter to the primary contact listed on the cover page (C.2.2 form) and a 60 calendar day turn-around time is permitted for response. If we do not receive a response within 60 days, the design document is “purged”, not discarded, but essentially placed at the bottom of the plan review stack. Design documents submitted for review are completed on a first come first serve basis.

Plan reviews are conducted for conformance to the Kansas Fire Prevention Code (KFPC). The most common type of design document submitted for review is the building code compliance plan, or code footprint document. KAR 22-1-7 of the KFPC provides a summary of the types of occupancies that must produce and submit the code footprint document to this office or the local Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) for review.

The document also lists the specific type of code data that must be listed on the code footprint document. Design documents submitted to this office for review can range from code footprints to kitchen hood suppression system drawings, as well as plans for detention facilities to child care centers.

If the code footprint document states that a new hospital or new addition to a hospital will contain a fire sprinkler or fire alarm system, the design documents for these fire protection systems must be submitted for review also. An inspection for licensure or

occupancy purposes will not be conducted until all required design documents has been submitted for review.

In addition to the code footprint or scaled drawing (permitted for child care centers, preschools, school age programs and adult day services that contain less than 25 clients/children, as well as adult care sleeping facilities that contain 3 or less licensed residents) the C.2.2 form must be included. The C.2.2.A form must be included when a code footprint document is required. This document verifies that all of the code data required on the code footprint has been included. These documents can be found on our website (www.firemarshal.ks.gov).

Receiving an incomplete form can cause a delay in processing and review. It is important that the correct physical address and phone number of the facility, email address and phone number of the primary contact, and occupancy type be provided so that we document it correctly in our Firehouse data system.

-Jack Chatmon, Fire Protection Specialist



Adoption of the 2012 edition of the NFPA 101 LSC and 2012 edition of the NFPA 99—Health Facilities Code

CMS has adopted by the 2012 LSC and the 2012 HCFC. The effective date is July 5, 2016. This means that buildings constructed before July 5, 2016 can meet Existing Occupancy requirements. In addition, buildings that receive design approval or building permits for construction before July 5, 2016 can meet Existing Occupancy requirements. All other building construction must meet New Occupancy requirements.

CMS will begin surveying facilities for compliance with the 2012 edition of the LSC and HCFC on November 1, 2016. In addition, this will allow CMS the opportunity to train existing surveyors, revise fire safety survey forms, and update the ASPEN program. Surveyors will continue to use the current process, tags and forms until November 1, 2016. In instances where the survey process identified deficiencies that would be compliant under the 2012 LSC, a facility may verify compliance with the 2012 LSC as an acceptable plan of correction and the deficiency would not be cited.

For more information about the new updates, please click [here](#) to read the full memo from the CMS regarding the LSC and HCFC 2012 updates.

CONGRATS!

Congratulations to the facilities who have recently passed inspection on new or remodeled facilities, including these shining stars!



Bosselman Energy in Plainville — renovated facility



Heartland Meadows in Iola — new facility



Wesley Medical Center in Wichita — remodeled facilities



USD 268 in Cheney — new elementary and high school facilities

Fire Safe Haunted Houses



With Halloween coming upon us, families will soon start visiting haunted houses, ghost walks and other special amusements.

The Kansas State Fire Marshal, Doug Jorgensen, would like to remind everyone that even though these amusements are intended for family Halloween entertainment, these structures present an increased risk with regards to fire and life safety.

Kansas has the 2006 International Fire Code adopted which requires these types of facilities to comply with major components of fire and life safety. History has shown that complying with life safety requirements is vital. The tragic May 11, 1984 fire in the "Haunted Castle" at the Six Flags Great Adventure Park in New Jersey resulted in the deaths of eight visitors due to their inability to immediately exit the amusement structure.

If you are considering operating or designing one of these amusements, special attention should be given to the following requirements:

- Automatic Sprinkler System in accordance with NFPA 13



- Automatic Fire Alarm System in accordance with NFPA 72
- Number of exits
- Exit signs, illumination and emergency lighting
- Travel distance to exits
- Use of flammable liquids
- Use of combustibile interior finish
- Location of extinguishing equipment

- Adequate staff trained in evacuation and equipped with flashlights
- Established emergency procedures
Readily available means to notify local fire, police and emergency medical services

For added safety, it may be necessary to limit occupant load, add additional emergency exits or establish other special precautions to minimize a potential risk due to some unique circumstance. In any event, every effort should be made to provide an enjoyable but safe environment as determined by the local fire inspection authority.

*The specific requirements may be modified by the state fire marshal to allow alternative measures to obtain an equivalency to the code. K.S.A.31-136 provides procedures for exemptions of these requirements upon written request. The written request must demonstrate that the specific requirement causes unnecessary hardship."

Thank you for your all your hard work and dedication to keeping Kansas fire safe. We know that it is not always easy to comply with code. As we continue to work together we will be able to provide Kansas citizens with the safest buildings we possibly can. –OSFM

HALLOWEEN

Fire Safety for your Family

As the end of another year comes upon us, the holiday season is just beginning. One of many people's favorite holidays is Halloween. Kids get to dress up as their favorite super hero, or maybe a princess. Ghosts and goblins roam the streets, and hopefully there are more treats than tricks! It's not just the kids' holiday...adults have just as much fun dressing up and decorating their houses and yards. Glowing jack-o-lanterns, hay bales, cornstalks, bed sheet ghosts and much more make up a haunted Halloween neighborhood.

While all of these decorations are a part of a fun and harmless Halloween, they can also turn into something far more frightening than any ghost or zombie: a fire. According to the NFPA (www.nfpa.org) Fire Analysis & Research Division, during the five year period of 2006-2010, decorations were the item first ignited in an estimated average of 900

reported home structure fires per year. Nearly half of decoration fires in homes occurred because the decorations were too close to a heat source. 41% of these incidents were started by candles and began in the living



room, family room, or den. These fires caused an estimated average of one death, 41 injuries and \$13 million in direct property damage per year. But with the proper precautions, your decorations can be the talk of the neighborhood for all of the right reasons!

- When choosing a costume, stay away from long trailing fabric. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes

are large enough to see out.

- Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper catch fire easily. Keep all decorations away from open flames and other heat sources, such as light bulbs and candles.
- Use a battery-operated candle or glow stick in jack-o-lanterns. If you use real candles, use extreme caution. Make sure children are watched at all times when candles are lit. Be sure to place lit pumpkins away from anything that can burn and away from steps and walkways.

- Keep exits clear of decorations so nothing blocks escape routes.
- Make sure all smoke alarms and fire extinguishers are in good working condition.
- Make sure your family has a fire evacuation plan in place and that all children know the plan and where to meet.

-Joel Beckner, Education Consultant



Thank you!
for helping to
keep our
beautiful state
fire safe